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## BRIEF NOTE

A NEW STATE BUTTERFLY RECORD FOR OHIO<sup>1</sup>

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The cobweb skipper, *Hesperia metea* Scudder, is hereby added to the Ohio state list.

The Ohio Lepidopterists was begun in 1979 to increase the knowledge of the lepi-

dopterous fauna of Ohio through collection of specimens and maintenance of records of butterflies and moths. In a preliminary unpublished checklist of Ohio butterflies, Albrecht (1979) listed 130 species for the state. Since then, 3 additional species have been added (pers. comm., Albrecht, Ohio

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<sup>1</sup>Manuscript received 15 July 1981 (#81-32).

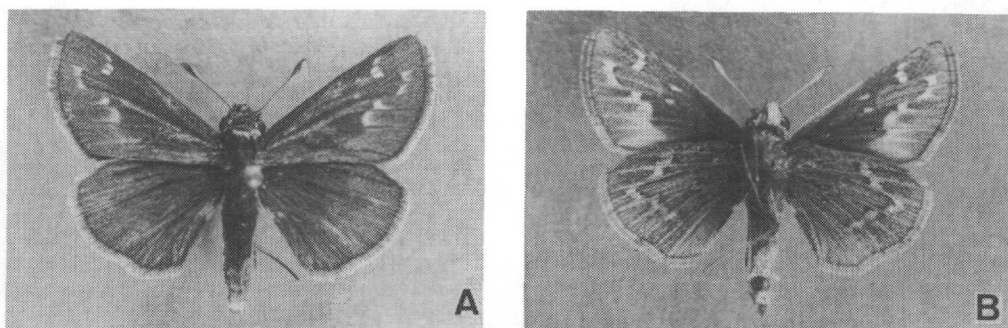


FIGURE 1. The *Hesperia metea* female, (A) dorsal view, and (B) ventral view.

Historical Society). I report another butterfly record, the cobweb skipper *Hesperia metea* Scudder, which brings the Ohio total to 134.

On 5 May 1979, while attending an Ohio Lepidopterists' field trip to Vinton County (Richland Twp., Sec. 24), I collected a newly-emerged female of the cobweb skipper, *Hesperia metea*, the first recorded specimen for Ohio. The specimen (fig. 1) was collected while it visited flowers of dwarf cinquefoil (*Potentilla canadensis* L.) on a grassy hillside clearing.

The cobweb skipper is an early spring species found in open fields and clearings where its larval food plant, little bluestem (*Andropogon scoparius* Michx.), is found. It has one generation (Klots 1951). *H. metea* has a range from Maine to Michigan and south to Florida and Texas (Howe 1975). Adults are present in different parts of their range from April through June, although they have a very short flight period. In Pennsylvania the first males appear around 6 May, and are gone by 25 May. Females are first seen around 12 May, and may still be present as late as 1 June (Shapiro 1965).

This skipper had long been expected to occur in Ohio since it was already known from all neighboring states. It should be found in more Ohio localities since its

foodplant is known from 69 of 88 counties (Braun 1967). Future searches for *H. metea* should be conducted in May, and in areas where *A. scoparius* is a dominant element of the herbaceous vegetation particularly on dry, open hillsides surrounded by woods or on hills which open above the trees on at least one side (Shapiro 1965). The first described situation is typical of the habitat from which the first Ohio specimen was collected. The specimen of *H. metea* is in the private collection of the author.

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